

# BUGLE

The Newsletter for HMS Chiddingfold

Issue 03 | April – May 2017



## HELLO MUSCAT!

After a few testing months and a challenging Straits of Hormuz transit, Chiddingfold and Penzances lucky lads and lasses were rewarded for their hard work with a week of adventurous training in Muscat, the capital of Oman. Highlights included tours of the famous Wadi Shab, a fresh water-filled valley full of high diving areas, and opportunities to Kayaking and Paddleboarding. Over 80 personnel across the two ships managed to get at least one day experience, all paid for by the Navy.

Other such activities that were available and subsidized by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity included a fishing trip out into the waters surrounding Muscat, where they were given a whole afternoon of deep sea fishing with expert fisherman in the areas off Muscat. An abundance of wildlife was seen in the habitats around there, including Omani turtles, Dolphins, Dorado, as well as Tuna.

A highlight of the week for all that attended was a hike through the Wadi Shab – a kilometer long gorge with a fresh water stream running through the middle. It provided the perfect mix of scrambling over rocks and cooling off in deep water rock pools, all set against the breathing taking backdrop of the Omani desert.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Its been a challenging but enjoyable period since I last wrote. Chiddingfold has made the leap from Bahrain, leaving the Arabian Gulf to enter the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean – where it is Mosoon season. Called the 'Khareef' in Oman. In our temporary home of Duqm, midway round the Oman coast, we are a few steps closer to the UK. Various training periods and an operational transit of the Straits of Hormuz have presented their challenges in the last few months, but its not been all work and no play, as this newsletter will tell you.

Yet again CO's Week was a breath of fresh air for us all and I thank each and every one of you for your continued support on this week and in general. Simiarly, our recent week allocated to Adventurous Training in Muscat was, as you will see from this letter, filled with excitement and unique experiences. From paddleboarding to "Wadi Bashing", it seems the Ship's Company took full advantage of the opportunity.

We're now past the halfway point in time, though not in distance, there is still a lot of water to pass under the keel. The remaining few months will bring a different set of challenges, thank you again for all your support. I can confidently speak for all of us when I say it is gratefully welcomed.





## WIVES AND SWEETHEARTS

After operational training following our prolonged support period in February and March, Chiddingfold and Penzance were given a rare mid deployment treat; a chance to see some members of our families again alongside in Dubai. Quite reasonably, every member of the Ship's Company wanted their picture to head this caption, Thankyou to our families for making it so special.



## MCM "Hunters" go on the road

April and May continued to see Crew 1 and her sister crews take on all comers at rugby. Firstly, a tough game against HMS Monmouth, with the aid of HMS Middleton and Penzance saw the newly christened "Hunters" run out victors in a tough match which ended 21-18.

A few weeks later during our AT week in Muscat, Penzance and Chiddingfold took on Muscat RFC, which proved to be a far more disappointed affair, with Muscat overcoming us 47-0. The guys never let their spirits be dampened however, and Hunters RFC looks forward to the next challenge of the coming months!



## Welcomes and goodbyes

We welcome to Crew 1 our trio of Young Officers, Sub-Lieutenants Ralph Morton, Aiden Wilkins and James Rudge. We also welcome into the world little Alfie Britcliffe, son of ET(ME) Josh Britcliffe and his partner, Lottie Jarvis, who was born on 2035 on 28<sup>th</sup> April weighing 7lbs and 10oz.

### Have a wet with AB (MW) George Moodley

**Q: What do you do onboard?**

**I'm a Mine Warfare Specialist. That entails doing various jobs from deploying the Mine Disposal System to finding Mine-like contacts using the Sonar.**

**Q: What has been your trip highlight so far?**

**My highlight so far would be the CO's week in Dubai. Ive always wanted to visit there because of rich culture and variety of things to do.**

**Q: Whats the best part of being onboard?**

**Being part of the comradery onboard. Making new friends out here, living so close with so many other guys like me makes the whole thing easier.**

**Q: finally any messages to send home?**

**I miss you all very much, and am looking forward to seeing you at home.**

**Every month, we will let our friends and families know what we have been up to in statistics. Here is April- May by numbers:**

**Miles underway:**

**2136**

**Days at Sea:**

**17**

**Countries visited:**

**4**

